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BRIEF COMMUNICATION

Klippel-Feil syndrome with other associated anomalies in a medieval Portuguese skeleton (13th–15th century)

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KEYWORDS

butterfly vertebra • hemivertebrae • Klippel-Feil syndrome • medieval Portuguese skeleton

Abstract



Klippel-Feil syndrome, or synostosis of the cervical spine, is the result of an abnormal division of somites during embryonic development. This report analyses an adult male (exhumed from a Portuguese graveyard dating from the 13th to the 15th century) with malformations in the cranium and vertebral column. Besides the lesions that are typical of Klippel-Feil syndrome type II, other defects usually linked to this pathology are described (occipito-atlantal fusion, hemivertebrae, butterfly vertebrae, cervical rib, changes in normal number of vertebral segments and a possible Sprengel deformity).

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